

Coast Guard family. She knows that with 40 percent of the Coast Guard being women, we need to have good policies that will continue to encourage them to stay in the Coast Guard and move up in leadership, just as she has done. I know under her, we will build world-class, state-of-the-art facilities to help all our Coasties and all our Coast families. I know that we will continue to be proud of the mission of the Coast Guard in continuing to have those many, many challenges that they help us deal with every single day.

But tonight, we are doing more than just helping. We are confirming Admiral Fagan. We are sending a strong message to women serving in the Coast Guard. We are sending a strong message to women cadets and the Academy and training people at Cape May. We are sending a strong message to young girls who dream of someday serving in the Coast Guard. We are saying now, that the leader of this organization, that your service matters, your contribution to the Coast Guard and to the country matters, and, yes, you too can be Commandant someday.

I want to thank Admiral Fagan for her tremendous service, and I thank my colleagues for joining me tonight to vote to confirm Admiral Linda Fagan to be Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Commerce being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Commerce from further consideration of the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided, between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an As-

sistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be notified immediately of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Michael H. Day

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Operations, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Peter W. Gautier

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 304:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin

The following named officer for appointment as Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 302:

To be admiral

Adm. Linda L. Fagan

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Kevin E. Lunday

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Andrew J. Tiongson

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT AHUAS, HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 10 years ago today a joint counternarcotics team of Honduran security agents and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration—DEA—officers opened fire on a water taxi as it approached Ahuas, a small town located in the remote Mosquitia region of northeastern Honduras.

The canoe-like taxi was carrying families traveling between the indigenous Miskito villages that populate the shores of the Patuca River when it was shot at repeatedly by the counternarcotics officers, leaving two women, a teenage boy, and a 21-year-old man dead and several other passengers injured. While the Honduran police announced that a "successful" drug interdiction mission had taken place, journalists and human rights advocates reported the victims were unarmed and had no known links to drug trafficking.

Instead of taking responsibility, assessing their mistakes, and examining their methods and partnerships with Honduran security forces, DEA and State Department officials obstructed U.S. and Honduran investigations of the incident and falsely reported to Members of Congress, including my staff, that the boat's passengers had fired on security forces. They also insisted that the DEA bore no responsibility for the discharging of weapons and had only played a supportive and advisory role during the mission. After the horrifying events of May 11, 2012, the DEA continued joint operations using battlefield tactics in the area that resulted in two more fatal shootings. Following one of these incidents, the Honduran police team leader was reported to have been instructed by his superiors to plant a weapon into evidence.

It was only thanks to a joint Department of Justice and Department of State Inspector General investigation report—published 5 years ago—that Congress was able to learn the truth about Ahuas and the two other fatal shootings. DEA agents had in fact played a central, leading role in the lethal operation. They had ordered a Honduran machine gunner to open fire on the water taxi and never verified whether DEA weapons had been discharged. The DEA's repeated assertions that someone on the boat had fired a weapon were found to not be credible.

As senior DEA officials obstructed the work of the inspector generals, it was not until 5 years after the Ahuas shooting that the victims were finally cleared of any wrongdoing. But justice for the victims and their families remains elusive. Though the lives of those left behind have been shattered, some by debilitating injuries and others by the loss of parents and breadwinners, they have not received fair compensation, and they have languished in dire poverty. The wrongful actions that resulted in their injuries or the death of their loved ones have not been punished in any way. Those who misled Congress, willfully concealing their agencies' deadly errors, were not disciplined at all, and one senior official even received a promotion. The U.S. Embassy and the DEA coordinated this operation with the Honduras National Police Director Juan Carlos Bonilla. Today, Bonilla is in custody after being extradited to the U.S., charged with ordering assassinations in support of drug traffickers protected by former President Juan Orlando Hernandez.

In honor of these and other victims of deadly errors committed by U.S. counternarcotics agents abroad, it is imperative that we hold ourselves and our institutions accountable and that we recognize our mistakes and correct them. If we claim to believe in justice and the rule of law, we cannot allow Federal officials to misrepresent the facts and cover up their wrongdoing when reporting to Congress.

We must also provide support to victims of the so-called drug war, not stigmatize and slander them, and examine the impact that our approach to drug interdiction has on areas like the Moskitia. It was obvious soon after the massacre that those who had directed and carried it out had minimal knowledge of the people and communities of that isolated area. They rushed to judgment, assuming that anyone traveling that river, no matter how impoverished, must be in some way involved in trafficking drugs and therefore a legitimate target of lethal force. Those who pay the price for militarized policing and for the corruption and violence drug trafficking organizations use to protect their activities are the most vulnerable: indigenous communities like Ahuas and the human rights activists who defend the rights of those caught in the crossfire.

I wish I could say that the DEA and the State Department have learned the lessons of Ahuas. But that will not be possible until those who fired on those innocent people and lied about it are brought to justice and until the victims are properly compensated and cared for. That is the shared responsibility of the U.S. and Honduran Governments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STARS OF LIFE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the paramedics, emergency medical technicians—EMTs—and other emergency medical services—EMS—professionals across the country who provide vital 9-1-1 emergency and nonemergency medical care across this country. These healthcare professionals are on the frontlines and put the needs of their patients before their own. I would like to recognize, in particular, those EMS professionals being honored last week as “Stars of Life” by the American Ambulance Association.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient hinges on the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and EMTs prior to the arrival at an emergency room. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted individuals, thousands of Americans lives are saved each year. This was especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic as paramedics and EMTs provided medical care, vaccinations, testing, and ambulance transport for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. These professionals deserve our utmost gratitude.

For the past 30 years, the American Ambulance Association has honored those paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these exceptional individuals as “Stars of Life.”

I am especially proud of the six Stars of Life from our State of Arkansas. Devin Holland, Kenneth Jenkins, Randy Murry, Amanda Nesbitt, Alvin Short of Pafford EMS in Hope, and Benny Ford of Medic One Ambulance in Jonesboro. These six professionals help ensure that Arkansans have vital and often lifesaving ambulance services within their communities.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3182. An act to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6023. An act to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 11:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1097. An act to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce.

S. 2201. An act to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6015. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building”.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4190. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.

S. 4191. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security.

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME (LEGISLATIVE DAY MAY 10, 2022)

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 7691. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 4190. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating